

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOR PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: MIDEAST SUMMIT

1. LIBERAL-LEFT DAGENS NYHETER AUGUST 9: "JIMMY CARTER HAS HAD A LITTLE SUCCESS. ON AMERICAN INITIATIVE THERE WILL BE A SUMMIT MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST... IT IS NATURALLY SIGNIFICANT THAT WHEN ANWAR SADAT AND MENACHEM BEGIN NOW MEET AGAIN IT CAN ONLY HAPPEN WITH JIMMY CARTER AS THE ONE WHO APPLIES THE FORCE AND ACTS AS MEDIATOR".

2. MODERATE SVENSKA DAGBLADET AUGUST 9: "A NEW MEETING BETWEEN BEGIN AND SADAT NATURALLY DOES NOT MEAN THERE IS ANY GUARANTEE FOR NEW PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT NO POSSIBILITY OUGHT TO BE LEFT UNTESTED, AND THE AMERICAN MEDIATION EFFORTS ARE ASSUREDLY CONDUCTED WITH ADMIRABLE PERSEVERANCE."

3. MORGON EKO RADIO NEWS-COMMENTARY SHOW, FROM U.S. CORR ERIK PIERRE, AUGUST 9: "AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST POLICIES NEVER GATHERED ANY REAL SPEED DURING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE DECISION TO HOLD A MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRESIDENT CARTER AT CAMP DAVID IS AN ATTEMPT TO TRY TO COME UNCLASSIFIED

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UP WITH SOMETHING WHICH RESEMBLES THE NEGOTIATION WORK DONE DURING THE TIME OF HENRY KISSINGER... THE UNUSUAL THING ABOUT THIS DECISION IS THAT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT PERSONALLY IS GETTING INVOLVED IN THE DIRECT NEGOTIATION WORK, SOMETHING WHICH MAY BECOME POLITICALLY TROUBLESOME FOR CARTER PERSONALLY, ESPECIALLY IF IT LEADS TO A TOTAL FAILURE. WHAT EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS HERE ASK IS WHETHER SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE'S TRIP

WAS CONCENTRATED ONLY ON SETTING UP THIS MEETING. IF THAT IS THE CASE, ALMOST ALL DIFFICULT PROBLEMS REMAIN, AND A LOT OF POLITICAL COURAGE, PERSUASIVENESS AND STATEMANSHIP IS REQUIRED IF ANYTHING IS TO COME OUT OF THESE MEETINGS. EARLIER EXPERIENCES OF THIS ADMINISTRATION INDICATE THAT SUCH TRAITS ARE NOT VERY OUTSTANDING, AND THEREFORE THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BE PESSIMISTIC."

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